



AFRICAN UNION



EUROPEAN UNION

Joint Statement

On the EU – Africa Infrastructure Partnership – 2nd meeting of the Steering Committee

ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA, 20-21 NOVEMBER 2008

The 2nd Meeting of the Partnership Steering Committee (PSC) on Infrastructure took place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on 20-21 November at the Headquarters of the Commission of the African Union (AUC) with the participation of Members of the PSC.

The members of the **Steering Committee** (SC) underlined the immediate need to develop Infrastructure priorities which are in line with overall regional and continental plans supported by Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and AU-NEPAD and to prepare an Action Plan for its development and further implementation. For the successful achievement of the various activities entrusted to the PSC, Partnership members will work closely and with other stakeholders – both public and private - in the context of other ongoing international and global initiatives in the domain of infrastructure, such as the Infrastructure Consortium for Africa.

Furthermore, the members of the Steering Committee agreed:

a) On the Rules of procedure of the Infrastructure Partnership Steering Committee

Draft rules of procedure were adopted by the members of the SC in October 2007 on the occasion of the inaugural meeting of the SC. These rules were further discussed both at African and European level to find an acceptable compromise with regard to the parity composition of the SC. After reformulation of articles concerned, the Steering Committee decided to adopt formally the Rules of Procedure.

Handwritten signature

b) On the promotion of capacity building

Based on the results of ongoing studies on the infrastructure sector in Africa, the members of the Steering Committee take note that AUC and the European Commission (EC) agreed to launch preparatory work to set up an Infrastructure programme for Africa, aiming inter-alia at improving regional interconnections between all regions of the African continent; members agreed to work on the definition of a comprehensive Capacity Building Programme to support the African stakeholders, in particular RECs. For the transport sector, the European Union (EU) will make available all information on the Trans-European Network programme. Interconnections between the African networks, the Trans-European transport networks and the future Trans-Mediterranean network will also be explored in that context.

c) On the EU-Africa Infrastructure Trust Fund

We take note of the progress made in the set up and implementation of the Trust Fund in 2007 as presented in the Annual Report. The progress in the mobilization of resources and identification and implementation of projects is encouraging, with twelve EU countries participating financially in the Trust Fund, six projects approved or cleared in principle in 2007 and total grant contributions of over 150 million Euros.

For the next year, and in order to further expand and strengthen the pipeline of projects of the Trust Fund, the Steering Committee recommends the following areas for attention:

- Reinforced dialogue and exchanges between the Secretariat & financiers of the Trust Fund and African Union Commission and RECs to identify regional and continental priority and sustainable projects that are sufficiently mature to be incorporated to the Trust Fund pipeline;
- Closer cooperation and targeted dialogue with African regional development banks to explore possibilities of investments of common interest;
- Intensify contacts and cooperation with relevant private sector organizations for their involvement in the funding of regional infrastructure in the context of Public – Private Partnerships (PPPs);
- Continue the process with African Development Bank to enhance its role in the group of financiers in order to participate more actively in project financing and definition;
- Explore and identify suitable projects in the field of TRANSPORT, including multimodal projects, ports, airports, etc.; and
- In the short term, explore in coordination with the Infrastructure Consortium for Africa (ICA) possibilities to support AUC in the preparation of the January 2009 Summit.



d) On the PIDA Programme and the promotion and identification of projects in the sectors of transport, energy, water management and CITs.

The members of the SC will promote the improvement of sustainable infrastructure networks and services in the fields of Transport, Communications and Information Technologies (CIT), Energy and Water to foster sustainable economic development in Africa. Projects developed should be consistent with the priorities / criteria defined under the Africa – EU Infrastructure Partnership and its Trust Fund, the NEPAD Short Term Action Plan and the outcome of current and upcoming initiatives, such as the Programme on Infrastructure Development in Africa (PIDA).

In line with the priorities identified through the Infrastructure partnership, the following goals shall be pursued:

- As regards transport, Africa and the EU will aim at increasing interconnectivity by investing in and improving infrastructure along the Trans-African highway corridors and rail networks, improve transport services by removal of non-physical barriers, and build capacities in the field of safety, security and protection of the environment particularly for air and maritime transport. With regard to air transport, the Executing Agency which is aimed at managing and overseeing the liberalization of African air transport markets will be launched and studies related to the implementation of the Yamoussoukro Decision will advance. To further stimulate cooperation, notably with regard to air safety, a conference on civil aviation jointly prepared by the AUC and the EC will be held in Windhoek in April 2009;
- In the field of Communications and Information Technologies both parties will work towards the development of interconnected Broadband networks and services within the continent, especially in the remote and rural areas while improving the universal access and it's funding mechanisms;
- As regards water, Africa and EU will reinforce their efforts to address the challenges of water security and climate change, sustainable access to safe and affordable water supplies; and
- In the field of energy, Africa and Europe will reinforce their efforts to address the challenges of energy security and access to sustainable and affordable energy services to stimulate economic growth and social development, in synergy with the Energy Partnership.

e) On cooperation with other initiatives

The members of the Steering Committee welcome the presence of the Secretariat of ICA at this meeting and recognize the need for continuing and reinforced cooperation between the two institutions to better contribute to our shared goal of better infrastructure services provision in Africa.

Z. Ogi

f) On specific cooperation with sectoral programmes

The Steering Committee, having taken note of the results achieved so far by the Telemedicine Task Force, fully support its programmatic vision and invite the relevant stakeholders to pursue this very promising Endeavour so to enable the development of telemedicine via satellite sustainable services. This programmatic action should receive the necessary budgetary support as highlighted in the corresponding presentation.

g) On the private sector

It is widely recognized that Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) alone will not suffice to cover the enormous needs for funding African infrastructure (recent studies estimate an annual gap of around USD 75 billion). Therefore, mobilizing additional non-ODA resources for investment in the Infrastructure sector is required. Prerequisites for stronger participation of the private sector in infrastructure developments in Africa are the establishment of an enabling and safe environment for investment and increased transparency. The members of the SC encourage African institutions to strengthen enabling legal, fiscal and regulatory environments to promote investment in the infrastructure sector.

h) On the Action Plan, Road Map and Monitoring and Evaluation plan

The members of the Steering Committee underlined the immediate need to develop Infrastructure priorities to be included in an Action Plan and to prepare a Road Map for its implementation, and also to prepare the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Plan and M&E Road Map as a tool for programme / project improvement. For the successful achievement of the various activities entrusted to the PSC, Partnership members will work closely and with other stakeholders.

i) On the implementation of European Development Fund (EDF) actions in support of the Partnership

The members of the SC take note of AUC's commitment to make further progress in the implementation of the € 55 million EC support programme for the period 2007-2011, in order to improve AUC expertise in the infrastructure sector, launch technical studies, raise awareness and play an effective role as an "engine" for the active participation of the African regional authorities, African countries and stakeholders in the Africa - EU Partnership on Infrastructure. This would include the RECs and other pan-African institutions and relevant national authorities. The additional programme of € 10 million designed to specifically support preparatory activities will also be instrumental in this regard.

The AUC and the EC agreed also to conduct a 'High level Africa – EU dialogue meeting' and establish and operationalize 'Africa – EU Infrastructure ad-hoc Working Groups' that will address infrastructure issues related to CIT, Water and Sanitation, Transport and Energy. Both AUC and EU will continue their effort to join forces in order to make swift progress in implementing the Partnership in full cooperation with its partners. Therefore it was agreed that:



- A High Level Africa - EU Infrastructure Dialogue Meeting to be organized every two years. The first meeting should take place in the second semester of 2010 to take stock of progress made in the implementation of the Africa - EU Infrastructure Partnership, to agree on further priorities up to 2010 and to launch discussions on priorities for the period 2011-2013;
- To promote the active participation of the private sector, research institutions and Civil Society in the implementation of the Africa – EU Infrastructure Partnership;
- Ad hoc working groups on specific infrastructure subjects will be formed as necessary to discuss themes of common interest, and these will include experts from the infrastructure sector from Africa and Europe to assist the PSC.


Done in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 21 November 2008.

For the African Union Commission,



Mr Aboubakari Baba-Moussa
Director, Infrastructure and Energy

For the European Commission,



Mr Antonio Garcia Frago
Head of Division – DG Development